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ABSTRACT

This mastery test is designed to accompany the second-semester 12th-grade course, "Comparing Political Experiences." The 24-item multiple-choice test was developed by the National Evaluation Systems, Inc. in conjunction with the project directors to determine whether the unit objectives have been achieved. The test measures student knowledge of the concept of political conflict and the application of this concept to various political situations. The test should be administered to the class as a group and then returned to the project headquarters for grading and analysis for possible revision of the student materials. (DE)

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Comparing Political Experiences

Busing in Boston

Mastery Test

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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Unit 1 Mastery Test

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For
High School Political Science Curriculum Project
Social Studies Development Center
Indiana University

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Directions

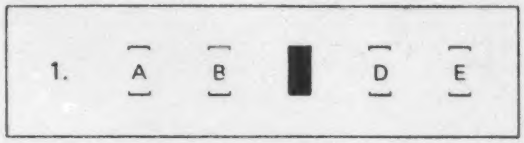
The test you are about to take has 24 multiple choice questions. Read each question carefully and select an answer choice. You should record your choice by blackening the small space containing the letter corresponding to your answer.

Your answer sheet will be scored by a machine. Therefore, please make your marks dark and only in the answer spaces you select. Look at the sample question below and see how the answer is recorded in the sample answer box.

SAMPLE QUESTION

1. The opposite of UP is:
   - A. over
   - B. beside
   - C. down
   - D. inside

SAMPLE ANSWER BOX



REMEMBER:

1. Use a pencil only (No. 2 lead is best).
2. Use only the answer spaces A, B, C and D. There are NO questions with an "E" choice.
3. If you wish to change an answer, erase the unwanted mark completely.
4. Answer all questions and be sure you have marked your choice correctly. Mark ALL answers on your answer sheet.
5. DO NOT write in your test booklet and do not make stray marks on your answer sheet.
6. DO NOT add to or change the information at the top of the answer sheet. This space is for computer use only.
7. Good luck and take your time.

COMPARING POLITICAL EXPERIENCES is a two-semester high school course developed by the High School Political Science Curriculum Project, under the sponsorship of the American Political Science Association's Committee on Pre-Collegiate Education. The project is supported by funds provided by the National Science Foundation. National Evaluation Systems, Inc., is the evaluation agency responsible for test development.

1. How does mobilization affect political conflict?

A. Mobilization resolves the conflict more quickly.

B. Mobilization reduces political participation in a conflict situation.

C. Mobilization increases the organizational support necessary for conflict.

D. Mobilization reduces the chance of violence in a conflict situation.

2. Look for a SUPPORTER role in the situation below.

> In 1968 a group of citizens in Nebraska organized a third political party. Phil Scribner got the group together and served as the party chairman. The party nominated Bruce Hamilton as the party's candidate for the United States Congress from District #1. Lenny Kaplan loudly voiced his opinion that Bruce should not be the candidate. But the party members voted to have Bruce run. Many members, such as Carol Richter, contributed money and helped to send out campaign mail to voters.

Who performed the role of a political SUPPORTER in this election?

A. Phil Scribner

B. Bruce Hamilton

C. Lenny Kaplan

D. Carol Richter

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3. Read the following episode and the student reactions to it. Think about the way the students considered the episode.

> Some members of Arnie's class have asked him to join them in refusing to be bused to another school this fall. Arnie would like to stay in his neighborhood school. But he believes in integration, and busing seems to be the only way. Arnie's parents are against busing, but have left the decision up to him.
>
> What should Arnie do?

Craig: Arnie should do what he thinks is right even if it disappoints his parents. I agree with Jack that busing is not a good way to integrate schools, so I wouldn't ride the bus. But I think Arnie should follow his conscience and ride the bus.

Gail: If I were Arnie, I would ride the bus. I don't like the school I go to anyway. I wish they would close the school down. Arnie should definitely ride the bus.

Think about the WAY Craig and Gail made their decision--not the decision itself. The way you would consider this issue would be most like:

A. Craig, since he gave a reason for his decision.

B. Gail, since I agree with her.

C. neither Craig nor Gail, since I disagree with them.

D. both Craig and Gail, since both are concerned about the issue.

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4. How does inequality affect political conflict?

A. Inequality increases the organizational support necessary for conflict.

B. Inequality helps to clarify the issues in a conflict situation.

C. Inequality reduces the possibility of resolving the conflict.

D. Inequality increases people's stake in a conflict.

5. On the basis of the criteria for useful evidence, which of the following pairs contains evidence appropriate to the related hypothesis?

I.	Hypothesis:	Student leaders at Silver Tongue School feel that strong speaking skills are important to effective leadership.
	Evidence:	An unsigned editorial in the school newspaper discussing the rewards of being a leader.

II.	Hypothesis:	The captain of the Amazon Athletic League has the most influence on decision-making in the group.
	Evidence:	An observation record showing the number of policy recommendations made by each member that the group votes to accept.

A. I

B. II

C. both I and II

D. neither I nor II

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6. Decide whether the situation below contains a political conflict experience.

> During the 1960's in the Smith family, Mary stayed at home and took care of the children. John was a skillful lawyer and made a good living to support the family. He made the decision to move whenever he was offered a new job. Mary and the children always accepted his judgment.
>
> During the early 1970's, Mary finished college and began helping to support the family. In 1975 John announced that the family would be moving to another city so he could take a better job. When Mary protested, John was even more insistent that making decisions was his responsibility. But Mary said, "I'm sorry. This family has to work differently now. We have to think about my interests, too."

Which of the following statements is true about this situation?

A. It is a conflict experience because it is likely to lead to a quarrel between John and Mary.

B. It is not a conflict experience because even though John and Mary disagree, they will have to resolve the situation somehow.

C. It is a conflict experience because even though Mary now has a job, John is even more determined to make decisions alone.

D. It is not a conflict experience since Mary has more resources and is asking for more decision-making power.

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7. Look for the three basic steps for forecasting in the numbered list below.

Step	Activity
1	evaluating the political role requirements of the system
2	determining the likelihood of alternative events
3	projecting alternative futures in the experience of a system
4	suggesting causes for the distribution of resources and activities in a system
5	identifying a trend in the political experience of a system

Which of the following contains, IN THE CORRECT ORDER, the three basic steps for forecasting?

A. 4, 3, and 1

B. 2, 3, and 5

C. 5, 3, and 2

D. 5, 1, and 3

8. You want to compare this year's Republican National Convention and Democratic National Convention. Which of the following questions would be MOST appropriate for beginning to gather information with which to make a sound comparison?

A. What is the average age of delegates at each convention?

B. Is there more participation by delegates in the Republican or the Democratic convention?

C. Which convention involves a liberal political platform and which does not?

D. What is the difference between the agendas of business at the two conventions?

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9. Identify the reason for political conflict in the following situation.

> For years, American Indians had been discriminated against in this country. The Indians had few political resources and their scattered complaints about their lot were ignored by the government and the public. The government controlled political decisions affecting the Indians' lives.
>
> In the last decade, the Indians captured public attention by organizing in groups to commit acts of civil disobedience, such as taking over the town of Wounded Knee. Government officials demanded that they leave, insisting more strongly than ever before that government decisions must be obeyed. But the Indians stood their ground, even when shots were exchanged. Things did not look like they would ever be the same again.

Why was there political conflict in this situation?

A. Because the participants were interdependent and couldn't find a solution everyone agreed upon.

B. Because the Indians captured the public's attention by their actions.

C. Because the Indians organized to support their demands and the government resisted.

D. Because there was controversy which erupted in violence.

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10. How does competition affect political conflict?

A. Competition widens the scope of conflict.

B. Competition increases the number of people involved in a conflict situation.

C. Competition makes conflict conditions more intense.

D. Competition increases cooperation in conflict situations.

11. Two students are forecasting the future of the university credit union, which has been a participant group in the past.

Judy: The union can become more bureaucratic if we add more ranking officers, or it can become more elite if one person decides to run things. An elite system is probably more likely since the union really needs central control.

Dave: After so much trouble striking an agreement on policies, I thought that a coalitional system could develop. But when I considered the possibility of an elite system, that seemed to be a better and more probable structure for the group.

Which student uses the complete alternative futures method correctly?

A. Only Judy, because she gives a reason for thinking an elite system is more likely.

B. Only Dave, because he considers the problems of the group in making his decision.

C. Both Judy and Dave, because they select the future that is most likely from the alternatives they consider.

D. Neither Judy nor Dave, since they do not first identify a trend in the experience of the system.

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12. Decide whether the situation below contains a political conflict experience.

> In 1970, the Fastballers won the title in their baseball league. Lou Shiner, their captain, was the best player on the team and so made all decisions about strategy. The rookies followed his instructions and respected his judgment.
>
> In 1975, the Fastballers were having a losing season. Lou was in a slump and some of the more skillful young players were trying to offer suggestions about strategy. Sometimes harsh words were exchanged when Lou rejected their advice. But the players usually apologized afterwards for getting out of line. They knew that the team's problems weren't all Lou's fault and that he was still in charge.

Which of the following statements is true about this situation?

A. It was a conflict experience because in 1975 harsh words passed between Lou and the other players.

B. It was a conflict experience because the younger players were beginning to compete with Lou for team leadership.

C. It was not a conflict experience, even though there were some bad feelings, because the team members apologized for speaking harshly to Lou.

D. It was not a conflict experience because even though Lou was playing less well, the team still operated under his leadership.

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13. How does interdependence affect political conflict?

A. Interdependence widens the scope of a conflict situation.

B. Interdependence intensifies conflict conditions.

C. Interdependence decreases communication in a conflict situation.

D. Interdependence simplifies the issues in a conflict situation.

14. Which of the following pairs contains a question which is appropriate for beginning to gather information for making a comparison?

I.	Comparison:	the Carpenters' Union and the Brickmason's Union
	Question:	Do the workers in the Carpenters' Union have the right to vote as a resource available to them?

II.	Comparison:	a Community Action Group and a Presidential Advisory Group
	Question:	In which group is there more communication between leaders and followers?

A. I

B. II

C. both I and II

D. neither I nor II

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15. Read the following episode and the student reactions to it. Think about the way the students considered the episode.

> A friend wants Alvin to demonstrate against busing kids from another area to their school. Alvin agrees with his friend, but is afraid of possible violence. However, Alvin doesn't know how else busing could be stopped.
>
> What should Alvin do?

Betsy: The students who are going to demonstrate will probably get into trouble with the police. But the demonstration might do some good. I suppose it doesn't matter what Alvin does.

Carol: I agree with Betsy. There are reasons for and against demonstrating. Who can say what is best? If I were Alvin I would flip a coin or something.

Think about the WAY Betsy and Carol made their decision--not the decision itself. The way you would consider this issue would be most like:

A. Betsy, since she understands Alvin's problem.

B. Carol, since she realizes that there are two sides to the issue.

C. neither Betsy nor Carol, since neither one thinks taking a position on the issue is important.

D. both Betsy and Carol, since they weigh the reasons on both sides of the issue.

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16. Which one of the following is NOT a criterion for selecting useful evidence?

A. Evidence must positively support a theory or opinion.

B. The source of the evidence must be known.

C. The evidence must be related to an hypothesis you are testing.

D. The evidence must be systematically collected.

17. Look for a SUPPORTER role in the situation below.

> Blue Skies Forever (BSF) was trying to get the City Council to do something about the smoke-filled air in the city. Brian worked hard to get 1,000 signatures on a petition which asked the City Council to take action on the problem. Jack, the president, took the petition to a meeting of the City Council and explained to them how serious the problem was. Arlene argued that BSF should work on the state level instead of on the city level. Bob was too busy with his job to actively participate in BSF, but he was sympathetic to their cause.

Which of the following statements is true about SUPPORTER roles in this situation?

A. Brian performed a supporter role because he furthered the cause by circulating the petition.

B. Bob performed a supporter role because he was sympathetic to BSF's cause.

C. Jack did not perform a supporter role because he was president of BSF.

D. Arlene performed a supporter role because she suggested an alternative course of action for BSF.

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18. Mathilda wants to test the hypothesis that the President's political speeches have been effective in increasing support for his policies. Which of the following is the MOST useful evidence?

A. the record of an interview with an anonymous governmental official on the topic of presidential popularity

B. the definitions of political success taken from important governmental documents

C. an observer's notes on the comments made by reporters about the effectiveness of the President's speeches

D. the results of polls taken before and after presidential speeches, showing the percentage of people who agree with the President's policies

19. Two members are forecasting the future of the County Outing Club, which has in the past been a very bureaucratic group.

Bill:	Because the membership of the club is decreasing, we are likely to become either an elite or a participant group. Since all club members share the same interests, it is not likely to become a coalitional group.

Sherry:	We are becoming more of an elite group. We could try to become a participant group, since a lot of members would like it that way. But we're having trouble getting everyone to take on responsibility, so an elite system seems more likely.

Which student correctly follows all of the steps in the forecasting procedure?

A. Bill

B. Sherry

C. both Bill and Sherry

D. neither Bill nor Sherry

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20. Decide whether the situation below contains a political conflict experience.

> In the 1960's, the Highsights Company consisted of Mary, Harry, and Larry. They shared the ownership of the company and combined their skills to make the company successful. Usually there was general consensus among the three on company decisions.
>
> In the 1970's, Harry had gotten more than half-ownership in the company. He began to give orders without consulting Mary and Larry, which resulted in bitter arguments. Mary and Larry said that the company couldn't get along without their skills and that they would quit before they would take orders from Harry. They wanted to establish the rule that no decision could be made unless everyone agreed. The company no longer operated the way it used to.

Which of the following statements is true about this situation?

A. It is a conflict situation because bitter arguments resulted from disagreements within the company.

B. It is a conflict situation because when Harry gained control of the company, the others wanted to increase their participation in decision-making.

C. It is not a conflict situation because even though Mary and Larry threatened to quit, there is no indication that they will really do so.

D. It is not a conflict situation because even though the system operates differently, Harry is in control.

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21. Which of the following is the BEST statement of the way to make sound comparisons?

A. One should determine what concepts describe the things being compared.

B. One should use general concepts to make comparisons that are significant.

C. One should compare two things by identifying their most similar or different characteristics.

D. One should compare two things by identifying characteristics that one has and the other lacks.

22. Look for a SUPPORTER role in the situation below.

> In the quiet village of Twin Otter, the Lovely Landscape Club worked hard to keep their village square beautiful. Sylvia once remarked, "Beauty is better than ugliness. Our cause is right." Barry assigned jobs to the members who volunteered to beautify at various times. Lindsay worked hard and delighted in spray-painting the dandelions purple exactly the way Barry told her to. All the children would come out and watch her paint the face of nature.

Which of the following statements is true about SUPPORTER roles in this situation?

A. Barry performed a supporter role well because he only assigned jobs to volunteers.

B. Sylvia performed a supporter role well because she promoted her own position with reasons.

C. The children performed supporter roles well because they enjoyed the beautifying.

D. Lindsay performed a supporter role well because she was careful to follow Barry's directions.

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23. Read the following episode and the student reactions to it. Think about the way the students considered the episode.

> Jeff was a senior and worried that all the unrest at his school over the busing issue would interfere with his graduating in June. He knew that if he got involved in fights he might be suspended from school as some other students already had been.
>
> When he saw a friend of his being beaten up by two other students in the hall, he wanted to help his friend out, but he was afraid he would be caught fighting and get thrown out of school. He hesitated, trying to decide what he should do.

Susan: I don't care what anyone else says. Jeff is a rat if he doesn't help his friend out. I don't want to hear arguments about protecting yourself. Helping is what it means to be a friend. No matter what the situation, friends should stick together. He definitely should help his friend.

Jan: Jeff should help his friend out. Listening to what others have been saying, I realize that Jeff would expect the same if things were turned around. It is more important to help a friend in trouble than to play it safe about graduating. He should do what he can to help his friend.

Think about the WAY Susan and Jan made their decision--not the decision itself. The way you would consider this issue would be most like:

A. Susan, since I agree that, no matter what, you should always help friends when they need it.

B. Jan, since she is the only one who was willing to listen to others' opinions before deciding.

C. Neither Susan nor Jan, since they both are just expressing their own opinions.

D. Both Susan and Jan, since they both consider the reasons on both sides of the issue.

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24. Identify the reason for political conflict in the following situation.

> During the 1960's in Gotham City, Mayor Dooley gave all city employees pay raises three times. City employees and the public were satisfied with the way Dooley ran things and generally were not interested in participating in government affairs. Because of his popularity, Dooley was reelected every four years by a large vote.
>
> By 1974, Dooley had retired and Jim Landy had been elected mayor. There was an economic recession and the city was deeply in debt. Landy was not a popular mayor, because only the firefighters received a raise in pay. Bus drivers and sanitation workers demanded the same raise in pay given the firefighters. They picketed City Hall and fights broke out when police arrived to clear the area. Mayor Landy announced, "My decision holds. And, if you continue to fight me, I'm going to tighten things up around here even more." It was clear that something had to change in the Gotham system.

Why was there political conflict in this situation?

A. Because the new mayor, who was not as popular, had taken over.

B. Because fights broke out on the picket lines.

C. Because the country was in an economic recession which made everyone dissatisfied.

D. Because of competition between city employees.

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